

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 IO-11 /067 W

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O R 291613Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2295

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN PERDOMO

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 0356 (DTG 221600Z JAN 76)

1. I ATTENDED A RECEPTION EVENING OF JANUARY 28 OFFERED BY FONMIN PERDOMO IN HONOR OF OAS SEC GEN ORFILA. INVITEES INCLUDED ALL MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTER (INCLUDING EX-FONMINS BATRES AND GALVEZ) AND SELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AFTER RECEPTION WAS OVER FONMIN ASKED ME TO REMAIN FOR A "FRIENDLY CHAT". INCLUDED IN THE GROUP WERE MINDEF CHINCHILLA, VICE FONMIN PINEDA AND CHIDF OF PROTOCOL SOTO.

2. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION, THE FONMIN TOOK ME ASIDE AND ASKED MY OPINION OF THE MEETING WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE THAT AFTERNOON AT THE TEGUCIGALPA AIRPORT BETWEEN FONMIN BORGONOVO AND HIMSELF. I EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE IN SEEING THE FORWARD MOVEMENT OF FRIENDLY DIALOGUE. PERDOMO THEN SAID THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR STEP TAKEN
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BY BORGONOVO (COMING TO HONDURAS), BECAUSE THIS "GREAT

PRECEDENT" LAID THE DOORS WIDE OPEN FOR ALL SORTS OF INITIATIVES BY HIM (PERDOMO). HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE DIFFICULT "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES" FOR HIM TO HAVE TAKEN THAT MUCH INITIATIVE. THE TWO FONMISN ARRANGED THEIR NEXT MEETING FOR FEBRUARY UZ IN MIAMI (SEE REFTEL). ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF LT. COL. ELVIR WILL ACCOMPANY PERDOMO.

3. PERDOMO SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT I AGREED WITH THIS LATEST DECISION TO "FORM HIS OWN TEAM" IN ORDER CLEARLY TO CHARACTERIZE A DEPARTURE FROM THE "STAGNATION" THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY EXISTED. (ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT INDICATE WHO HE WAS DROPPING FROM THE NEGOTIATING FAMILY, HE DID POINT OUT TO ME THAT HE WAS ADDING FORMER SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTO RAMIREZ.) HE SAID THAT RAMIREZ KNEW THE PLAYERS AND THE SCENERY EXTREMELY WELL. HE SAID THAT RAMIREZ HAD CREDITABILITY ON BOTH SIDES AND AGREED WITH PERDOMO THAT A SLIGHT CHANGE OF TACTICS WAS NEEDED. HE LATER EXPLAINED THAT THE "CHANGE OF TACTICS" INCLUDED TRYING TO DEVELOP A SEQUENCE THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR VARIOUS STAGES OF SETTLEMENT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN AN IMAGE OF SIMULTANEOUS SETTLEMENT. PERDOMO THANKED US FOR OUR CONTINUING INTEREST AND PARTICULARLY FOR OUR "ARTFUL POSTURE" THROUGHOUT THIS VERY TOUCHY PROBLEM. HE SAID HE HOPED HE COULD CONTINUE TO COUNT UPON OUR INTEREST.
SANCHEZ

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